



PROTOCOL
of the U.S.-Russia Area V Working Group
of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on Cooperation
in the Field of Environmental Protection
December 1-2, 2004, Moscow

During the period December 1-2, 2004 a meeting of the U.S.-Russia Working Group for Area V, "Conservation of Nature and the Organization of Reserves," of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection was held in Moscow, Russia to discuss work carried out in 2002-2004 and plans for joint activities in 2005-2006.

The U.S. delegation was led by Dr. Rowan W. Gould, Alaska Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Russian delegation was led by Dr. A..M. Amirkhanov, Deputy Director of the Department of Governmental Policy in Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia.

A list of the members of the two delegations is attached.

During the course of the meeting the U.S. and Russian delegations (hereinafter called the Parties) reviewed the results of cooperation since the last Area V Working Group meeting, which was held in Washington, D.C. in March 2002.

The Parties informed the meeting attendees of the major directions of federal environmental policy, development of national legislation and systems of governmental bodies in the field of environmental protection, and also about structural and functional changes in conservation agencies of both countries since the time of the last Area V meeting.

The Parties exchanged information about activities carried out and summarized the results of joint work in the following topic areas:

- Protected natural areas
- Beringia conservation forum
- Conservation of ecosystem biodiversity, including saiga antelope
- Conservation of wild fauna, including
 - Conservation and study of migratory birds
 - Conservation and study of polar bears
 - Conservation and management of seabird populations
- Marine mammals

- Animal and plant ecology, including
 - Holarctic mammals
 - Chemical senses and communication in animals
 - Use of remote sensing technologies, including satellite, in the study of large mammal ecology
 - Invasive species of fauna and flora
 - Wildlife diseases
 - Rare species of flora
- Ecology, rare species of plants and dynamics of Arctic marine ecosystems, including studies of the Bering and Chuckchi Seas
- Ichthyology and Aquaculture
- Cooperation among U.S. and Russian zoological parks in the captive breeding of rare and endangered animals.

A great deal of attention was devoted to the bilateral Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population. The Parties exchanged information about the status of work already undertaken and expressed the hope that the necessary internal processes in both countries to enable the Agreement to enter into force will be completed at the beginning of 2005, after which the Agreement can begin functioning.

The Parties agreed to participate actively and support joint research activities, continued improvement of the management of reserves, national parks and refuges, as well as support conservation activities in the following topic areas:

- Protected natural areas
- Beringia Conservation Forum
- Ecosystem Conservation
- Conservation of rare and endangered species of wild fauna, as well as their habitats, including saiga antelope
- Marine mammals, including an instrument survey of Pacific walrus
- Migratory Birds
- Conservation and study of polar bears
- Animal and plant ecology
- Ichthyology and Aquaculture
- Ecology and dynamics of marine ecosystems
- Use of contemporary remote sensing technologies, including satellite, in the study of ecological processes

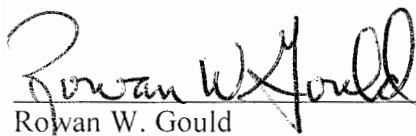
The Parties noted their successful collaboration in several international fora, including CITES, IUCN, Arctic Council, and other bodies, and the necessity of further development of such collaboration.

The Parties welcome the participation and contribution to conservation of non-governmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, institutions of higher learning, and individuals.

Specific items in the joint Work Plan for 2005-2006 will be agreed upon by the Parties through correspondence. This Protocol and the subsequent Work Plan will be distributed to all the participants in the Working Group meeting.

Signed in Moscow on December 2, 2004 in two copies in the Russian and English languages, both versions being equally authentic.

Head of U.S. delegation:



Rowan W. Gould
Regional Director - Alaska
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
United States of America

Head of Russian delegation:



Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov
Deputy Director of the Department of
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